



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Annex C: Governance Assurance Statement

The LEP Chair and Chief Executive should here provide a brief formal assurance statement on the status of governance and transparency. This should include any overview and scrutiny function undertaken by the Accountable Body. This should be sent to the Assurance Team via localgrowthassurance@communities.gov.uk, copying the Cities and Local Growth Unit Area Lead, by **20 January 2021**. This statement should also be published on the LEP's website by **24 February 2021** and confirmation sent to the email address above.

(max 500 words)

Despite the challenges that 2020/21 presented, the SELEP continues to put good governance and transparency at the heart of what we do. Following the introduction of public health restrictions due to Covid19 in March 2020, we quickly pivoted to a virtual onboarding and induction of the directors of the newly established SELEP Ltd. The virtual induction sessions were very effective and were well received by the Directors. The first meeting of the new Board was held, virtually, in April 2020.

All of our meetings are being held virtually, ensuring that we continue to consult and work with our partners during this difficult time. The meetings of our two Boards (Strategic and Accountability) continue to be open to the public and joining details are widely shared. Additionally, these meetings are now recorded, and all recordings can be accessed via our website. Accessibility to meetings for our communities has actually been enhanced during the crisis period as it is often easier for people to join virtually than in person. We regularly have in excess of 50 people watching the meetings live.

Our continuing relationship with Essex County Council as Accountable Body remains excellent and the S151 Officer is represented at all Board meetings and many other officer level meetings. The Accountable Body also reviews and scrutinises in advance all decisions to be presented to be both Strategic Board and Accountability Board and offers advice to those Boards where appropriate. The Accountable Body has free and open access to the Chairs of both Boards and Board members.

The team has worked incredibly hard in difficult circumstances to ensure that policies and procedures have been abided by. There has been no requirement for us to change our governance or give any exemptions to policies despite the change in working practices. We have made a strong response to the crisis but in a measured way and in line with our Assurance Framework.

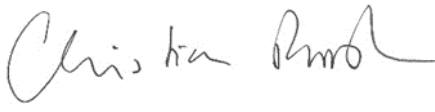


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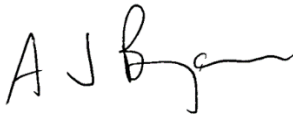
As Chair and Chief Executive, we offer assurance that the governance structures of the SELEP are robust and well managed and that all business of the LEP is conducted in an appropriate manner.

Signed: 

Name: Chris Brodie

Position: Chair of SELEP

Date: 19 January 2021

Signed: 

Name: Adam Bryan

Position: CEO of SELEP

Date: 19 January 2021